

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03373 121527Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05  
IO-13 /070 W

-----121549Z 061473 /43

O 121436Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6129

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, SY, US, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: EDITORIALS ON CARTER-ASAD MEETING; RABIN ALSO COMMENTS

1. ISRAELI EDITORIALISTS DREW IN DARK TONES THEIR CONCLUSIONS ON THE CARTER-ASAD MEETING AT GENEVA. ACCORDING TO DAVAR, WHATEVER THE CONCRETE RESULTS OF THE MEETING, THE IMPRESSION IS THAT ANY PROGRESS MADE CAME PRINCIPALLY AS A RESULT OF U.S. ACCOMMODATION TO THE POSITION OF THE ARAB STATES. HOWEVER IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE DEEPLY ROOTED RELATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT RECOIL, WHEN THE NEED ARISES, FROM FIGHTING FOR ITS JUST CAUSE AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

2. HAARETZ: IT IS VERYDOUBTFUL WHETHER AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS ON THE ESSENTIAL THINGS. THE QUESTION IS NOW, AFTER THE MEETING BETWEEN CARTER AND ASAD, WHETHER THE CONFRONTATION COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 03373 121527Z

WITHOUT THE PLO. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE YEARS WHICH HAVE PASSED SINCE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR PROVES THAT THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CAPABLE, AT LEAST IN WHAT CONCERNS THE DISPUTE WITH ISRAEL, OF COMING TO AN AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO THIS, THEY ARE LIKELY TO FIND AN OPERATIVE, JOINT VERSION IN THE NOT-TO-DISTANT FUTURE. FROM ISRAEL'S POINT OF VIEW, THIS

IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GENEVA MEETING: ASAD'S AGREEMENT TO "GIVE A CHANCE" TO CARTER IS LIKELY TO BRING CLOSER THE MOMENT WHEN JERUSALEM WILL HAVE TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS CONCERNING THE PLO.

3. AL HAMISHMAR: IT IS EMERGING INCREASINGLY THAT, TO ATTAIN A MIDEAST SETTLEMENT, ARAB CONSENT IS NEEDED, BUT ISRAELI AGREEMENT IS NOT REQUIRED--AND IF THIS HAS NOT BEEN STATED EXPLICITLY, IT HAS BEEN IMPLIED BY THE "FACTS" IN THIS FIELD, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS POSSIBLE BOUNDARIES AND HINTS ABOUT ARMS SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL. IT IS, THEREFORE, APPARENT THAT THE POINTS OF DISPUTE WITH THE U.S. ARE BECOMING BROADER.

4. "VACATIONING" PRIME MINISTER RABIN, ON A CAMPAIGN STOP IN THE GALILEE, WAS ASKED ABOUT THE CARTER-ASAD MEETING. HIS WIDELY-QUOTED RESPONSE: "THIS WAS THE FIRST MEETING SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND SYRIA AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA DICTATED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TOO MUCH AND, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONLY AN EXPRESSION IN THIS OF ATMOSPHERE, OF A WAY OF BEHAVING, I HOPE; I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT AN INCORRECT INTERPRETATION WILL NOT BE GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS TO WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY IN GENEVA. I DO NOT RECALL THAT PRESIDENT ASAD DEMANDED OF BREZHNEV THAT HE COME TO BELGRADE IN ORDER TO MEET HIM."  
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 03373 121527Z

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, SY, US, XF, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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